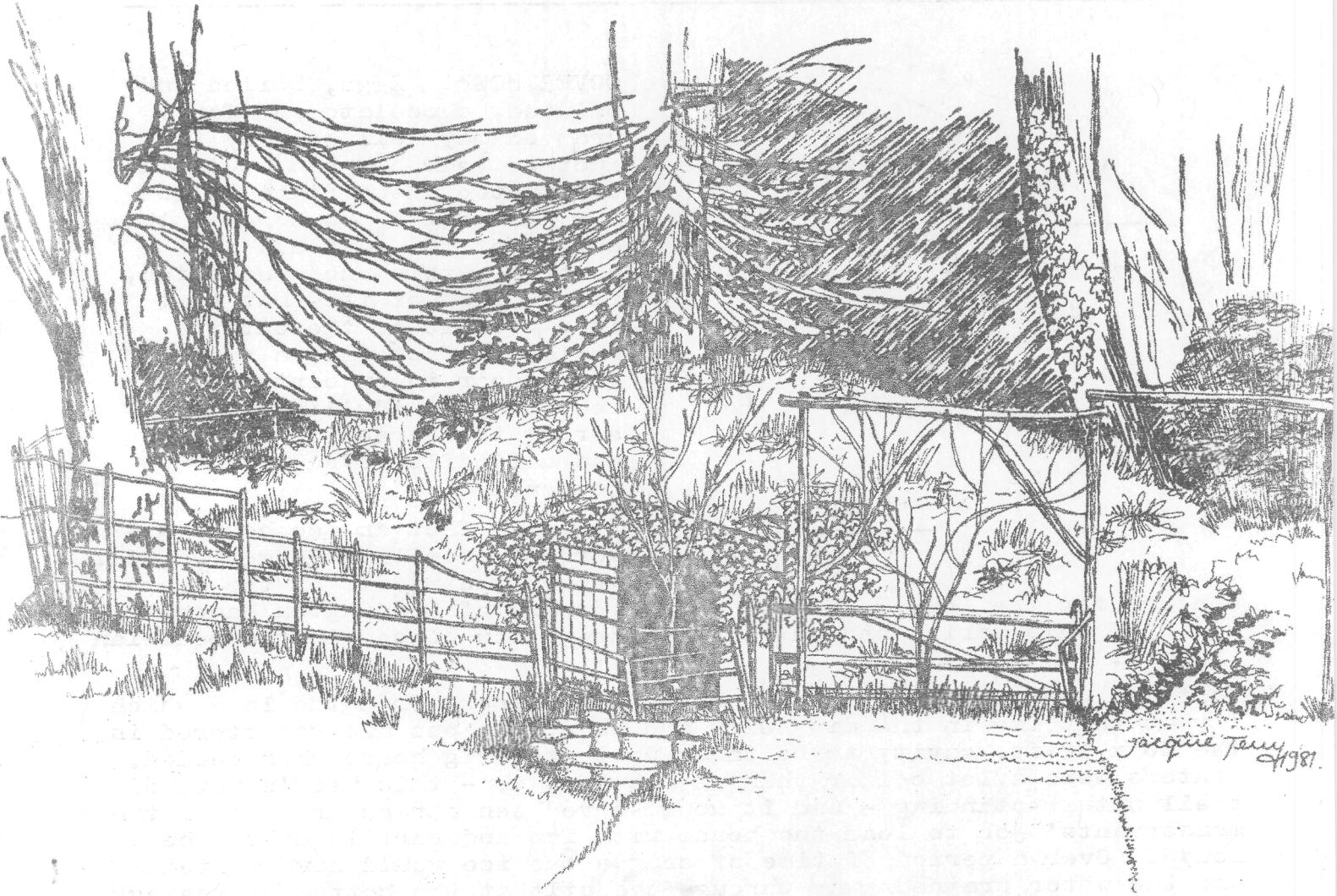
May 87

DEDDINGTON NEWS



DEDDINGTON NEWS: Vol 5 No 8 May 1981

ED. & COPY: Jane Rose (38463) TYPING: Mary Tearney (38223)
ADVERTISING: Jill Heighway (38075) & Brian Bond (38351)
TREASURER: Maureen Forsyth (38384) COLLATING: Moya Hassan (38623)
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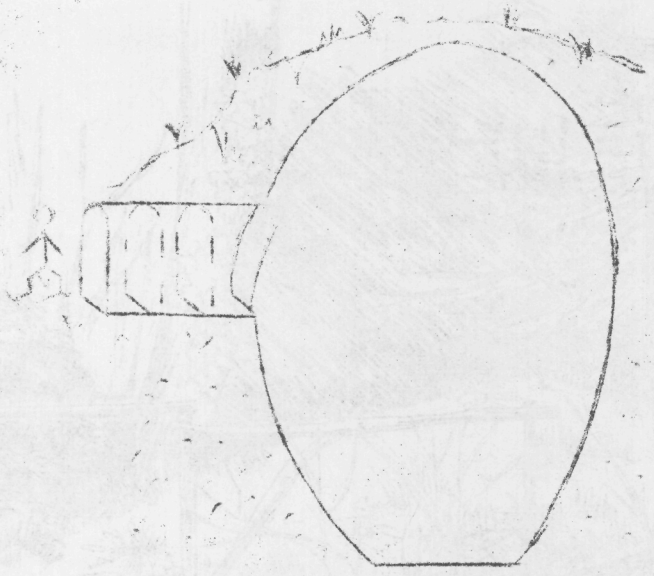
DEDDINGTON NEWS is a community magazine, produced for and by Deddington people. We are always glad to receive letters and articles for inclusion in the magazine.

Extra copies are on sale at the Post Office, cost 10p.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES FOR 1981: £9 full page £6 two thirds page
£3 third page £1.50 sixth page
Personal ads 1p per word



COVER NOTE: Eggs, boiled and painted, chocolate and fancy wrapped may well be away for another year but one house in Deddington has a giant hollow egg all of its own down at the bottom of the garden. Not chocolate this one, but brick, all 20 feet of it. Not that it's visible to the outside world, in fact only a small green door in an earth mound topped by an idyllic copse of spring time trees, primroses and daffodils reveals its presence.

It is in fact an ice house - a sort of primitive freezer, built around the middle of the last century for the Rev. W. Cotton Risley, owner of Deddington Manor, vicar of this parish and author of diaries now housed in the Bodleian Library.

What happened was that ice was brought in blocks from the lake which lay at that ime in the dip below the Manor gardens and was stored in the 20 x 12 ft. cavity to be taken up to the big house when needed. Winters were a lot colder than we are used to - this week's untimely spell notwithstanding - and it would have been a regular part of the menservants' job to load the house with ice and cart it up to the house. Over a period of time of course the ice would have melted and the water drained away through the silt at the bottom of the egg and back to the lake. As you can see from the drawing, the storage chamber is approached by a narrow stone passage and evidence of wooden lintels indicated the onetime presence of double doors, probably acting as a cold air lock.

cont.

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS FRIDAY 29th MAY

The inside surface is of smooth brick, making the house one of the latest to the built, earlier ones being constructed of stone. Other examples in the area still have hooks from which meat would have been suspended but there are none here, so meat must have been kept in icefilled cool boxes in the larders.

One Deddington resident who remembers the ice house in the days before the last war is Mrs. Mary Churchill, who worked as a 'tweenie' for Major Roberts in the years 1933-38. The ice house was certainly not used then as the lake had been drained many years earlier following a tragic drowning accident. Doubtless also, milder winters and the introduction of refrigerators had something to do with it! Mrs. Churchill well remembers being put firmly in her place when as an inquisitive but very junior maid, she wanted to investigate the mound at the bottom of the garden. She had her chance more recently however when the present owners of the Manor, Mr. and Mrs. Denys Heywood invited her to tea to look round her first place of work.

Our cover drawing this month is once again by Jacqui Terry.

Mary Robinson

DEDDINGTON DIARY

May
2 Playgroup stall in Market Place
6 Dedd. Ladies Tramps Supper HTC
9 Warriner Choral Society Mendelssohn 7.30 St.Mary's Bloxham
9 Carnival auction 11.30a.m. Town Hall
12 Warriner School talk by Chief Ed. Off. Mr. Brighouse
16 Brownie Revels 2.30-6p.m. Castle House
18 Cricket Meeting 7.30p.m. Unicorn
19 W.I. Meeting 7.30p.m. HTC
27 Annual Parish Meeting 7.15p.m. Town Hall
29 Deddington News Copy Date
June
7 Warriner School Bric a Brac auction
10 Dedd. Ladies Trip to Sturdy's Castle
13 W. I. Market Place Stall 9.30a.m.
19 Football Club Dance 8p.m. B.L. Club

BROWNIES

Could all Brownies remember the date of Brownie Revels - Saturday 16th May 2.30p.m. to 6p.m. at Castle House. Please try to come.

Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie

WANTED: Back numbers of Deddington News for March 81, November 80, September 80, November 78 and September 78.

Thanks. Colin Robinson Tel: 38272

PERSONAL

Mrs. Leonard Berry and family wish to thank friends and neighbours for the floral tributes and messages of sympathy for their recent bereavement.

MEMORIES OF DEDDINGTON

I lived among you some few years ago,
But moved house, it was time to go.
Off to Banbury to Bloxham Road,
To make new friends, own a new postcode.
I've been here some time and like it that's true,
But Deddington Town I have missed you.
I loved your shops and your little lanes,
I miss the traffic and the American planes.
The bells at the Church always ringing,
News of funerals and weddings bringing.
The antique shops sell things so old,
"If we don't have it we'll get it" is what I'm told.
You have a potter a jeweller too,
A butcher, a baker but no public loo ...
The pubs are quaint and serve good ale,
The locals chat and tell a grand tale.
That's about all I have to say,
Except maybe I'll join you again some day.

B. T. Difford (formerly of Hendon Cottage)

NATURE NOTES

Gone were but the Winter,
Come were but the Spring,
I would go to a covert
Where the birds sing. Christina Rossetti.

An early evening walk in woods near Deddington made spring a reality. Young lacy leaves of the hazel trees spread above the bluebells, cowslips, violets, and early purple orchis. The willow warbler and chiff chaff were singing together with all the resident birds, and the great tits were feeding greedily on the maroon and yellow catkins of the alders. There was a red tailed bumble bee making its clumsy flight among the flowers collecting pollen and then returning to its nest in a hole in the ground. Every plant and creature has its purpose. The great awakening to spring has begun.

One day in the middle of April, I was motoring to Chipping Norton, and near Black Jane Farm, a car coming towards me ran over and killed a fully grown rabbit. On my return journey, when some fifty yards away, I could see the rabbit lying in the road. To my suprise I noticed a weasel pulling the corpse to the side of the road. I was able to stop the car and watch. The weasel did not appear to have seen me, but went on with its task of pulling the rabbit which must have been four times its size. When it got to the grass verge it had to pull and push it up the bank and it finally disappeared from view into the long grass.

Pat Hannah

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DEDDINGTON MIDSUMMER CARNIVAL

GRAND AUCTION

Deddington Town Hall

SATURDAY 9 MAY 1981

11.30 a.m.

VIEWING 10.00 a.m.

FURTHER ENTRIES INVITED

ANTIQUES, FURNITURE, BRIC-A-BRAC, ELECTRICAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS, GARDEN TOOLS

DEDDINGTON BUSINESSMEN OF EARLIER DAYS

A report on the talk given by Geoffrey Hindley to the public meeting held by the Banbury Historical Society in Deddington School on the evening of Thursday 9 April.

Addressing an audience of more than a hundred, for the most the members of the Banbury Society, Geoffrey Hindley began his survey of business in Deddington with a brief allusion to his now familiar thesis that it is places like Deddington that are the true towns of the future. First advanced on Radio Oxford in the mid 1970's, in conjunction with the Third Deddington Festival, this argues that with the increasing cost of travel, people will increasingly turn to their local communities for work opportunities and for their shopping. In the 1850s the Parish of Deddington with a population around the 2,000 mark, was not only a flourishing market centre, but also had a number of thriving industries. These included clock makers, shoemakers, tailors, a newspaper printed and published in Deddington and circulated in the neighbouring counties, a wood carving workshop, employing forty or so people by the end of the century, bakers and numerous other traders. In 1981, it seems we are witnessing a move back, or more properly forwards, to this kind of business profile. The parish population is, moreover, on the increase. The census of 1961 returned a figure of 1,237 (note the drop from the 19th century highpoint); that of 1971, a figure of 1,464; and it will be very suprising indeed if the figures for 1981 do not show a further rise. Once again, thanks to Deddington News, we have a thriving newspaper and, in the not too distant future, light industry may again become a feature of the Deddington scene.

Turning the clock back 200 years or more, the lecturer reflected that the late 18th century was the age of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. In Deddington at that time (and still?) the most important source of wealth lay with the farming community. Certainly there was no industry as such. Nevertheless, a Deddington man, William Carter, a wheelwright by trade, showed that, for its size, the town was fully as inventive as the rest of the nation. In February 1767 he demonstrated a patent drill plough - able to drill 'all sorts of grain from horse beans to turnip seeds .... which was very well approved by several gentlemen.' At this time at least one of the Deddington farms was being run by a woman, Widow Davis, while another lady, Susanna Churchill, moved from Banbury to Deddington to continue her business as a cork cutter. Many other trades were also represented. Fardon, the first Deddington clock maker of whom we have record, is of especial interest, but there were also - joiners, carpenters, a sadler, a plasterer, a weaver, four bakers, a glove and breeches maker, shoemakers, tailors and an ironmonger and cutler. Today, it is difficult to buy some of the goods represented here in Deddington, let alone to find them being made on the premises of the local shop. Nevertheless, we have a pretty large range of craftsmen - jeweller, potter, furniture restorer, of course the baker, and even a nationally known publisher.

One of the most important families of 18th century Deddington was the Churchills. The grand old man was Bartholomew Churchill, tallow chandler and grocer with his business based in Clifton. Bartholomew junior continued the business while Samuel and Henry Churchill deployed some of the hard earned family capital to found flourishing and soon very important legal practices. In 1788 the Deddington Provident Society opened its doors to subscribers with Bartholomew Churchill its treasurer and Samuel Churchill its secretary. Contributions were invested in the Bank of England and within a year or two the paid up members numbered 300.

A few years later Sam Churchill of Deddington, in conjunction with John Church of Woodstock, inaugurated a Society for the Preservation of Property and Prosecution of Felons - a kind of gentlemanly vigilante society, one supposes. In October 1788 a Churchill daughter had her marriage announced in the Gentleman's Magazine of London. She was to wed a London attorney, no doubt to the smug delight of her family. Fidkin, another of the three Deddington lawyers, had to be content with the orphaned daughter of a Shropshire vicar. The Churchills themselves would merit a chapter in any history of Deddington but the practice of law remained a tradition of the town right up to our own day, as Mr. Phillips could testify.

Other businessmen of special interest to us today must surely include the carrier John Arne who ran a stage coach service from Birmingham to London in the 1780's with his headquarters in Deddington. Then there was mercer Hitchman, who held the agency for Cornwell's Original Vegetable Cordial and also sold fire insurance for the Phoenix Fire Office of London. If the harrowing reports of the law courts are to be believed, not all businessmen were worthy of our respect. Many apprentices were driven to run away from their employers and Joseph Eldridge, apprenticed to Thomas Fennimore, glovemaker of Deddington, preferred to end his life starved to death in a shed on Christ Church meadows in Oxford rather than return to his employer.

The survey of Deddington's business past ended with a look still further back in time to the middle of the 15th century. Once again we found the building trades represented, weavers and tailors too but of especial interest, a Flemish merchant. If talk of twinning Deddington with a town on the continent should ever be revived it might be interesting if the lecturer were to bend his energies to researching which town this foreign member of Deddington's merchant community came from, all those centuries ago.

DEDDINGTON LADIES

Our March meeting was a demonstration from Bamix a new type of food mixer which can only be bought at exhibitions and demonstrations. The Bamix is small, compact, efficient, easy to clean but like all good and new things unfortunately expensive.

Our April 1st meeting was full of interest and fun. Mrs. Hawkins from Vincolls, Banbury came to demonstrate what attractive arrangements can be made with flowers just from your garden without buying expensive ones from the local florist. We had a great turnout of Easter Bonnets which Mrs. Hawkins found very difficult to judge as all were so professional. The winner was Brenda Munson who won an Easter Egg for her artistic efforts. Winner of the Painted Egg was Leslie Green who created a sweet chinaman.

May 6th - the scruffier you look at this meeting the better as it is our Tramps Supper. The supper which only costs 75p will consist of sausages, beans and jacket potatoes washed down with cider or shandy followed by tea and coffee.

June 10th - for once this meeting is on the second Wednesday in the month as we are all going to Sturdy's Castle at Tackley, an annual trip that none of us would miss.

So Ladies, if you would like to join us at any of our meetings, they are the first Wednesday (except June) of every month at 8p.m. in the Holly Tree Club. We look forward to seeing you.

Debbie King

CHURCH NEWS

A Sermon at a Caravan Rally

Will you use your imagination? Imagine that you are at home. You have just opened your back door for the first time today. What do you see, as you stand on the doorstep, looking out? Your neighbour's back door? Your own unattractive back garden? A brick wall? A tall hedge? The chances are that it is a pretty dull, uninspiring view. You know it - you take it for granted.

But today you have come to this site. You open the door of your caravan. Hopefully, the sun is shining. You stand in the doorway and look out. You have a view that on a fine day is worth all the food in Fine Fare. From the top of Chenlow Hill, you can see the Wrekin Hill in Shropshire, not far from the Welsh border. To the south, you can see the TV mast at Forest Hill, by Oxford. I hope you make the most of the view here. It may not be Everest, but it can be quite something.

Now this alternation, being hemmed in by buildings, and then getting away to the wide open spaces - this is living. If you only have the one side, if you always have your nose to the grindstone, you are only partly living. On the other hand, you cannot live up here all the time - there's no money in a view. You need both the closeness and security of home and the open-ness and adventure of being here.

Think of a small child. He has just found out that he can walk on his own. He tries it out, he walks round the corner, out of sight, on his own. There is real living for you! We have each done this. Have we ever had so great an adventure since?

All of us need to find the space and the time to be free, wherever we are. That is, time and space to be ourselves. That is why caravanning is such a popular occupation.

This is why churches should be open all the time, for everyone. Not just for us to admire the building - though it is good for us to relate to past centuries, which have make our world what it is. A church is to stand in, to sit in, to kneel in, to be ourselves in, to be free in. To say our prayers in, too. Prayer is chiefly thinking. No one in the world can think your thoughts for you. No-one can pray your prayers for you. When you say a prayer, you are finding yourself, you are practising the use of your freedom - even though you seem hemmed in by places and people. "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage ..... If you have freedom in my love and in my soul am free, angels alone that soar above, enjoy such liberty."

Richard Hannah

WANTED ..... WANTED ..... WANTED ..... WANTED ..... WANTED .....

At least 2 extra people are desparately required to help duplicate Deddington News two evenings every month. Previous experience nice but not necessary. We will show you how! Please contact Jane Rose if you are interested. Tel: 38463

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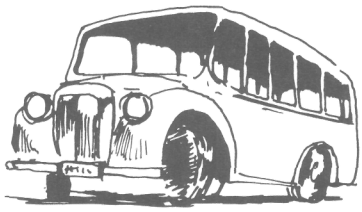

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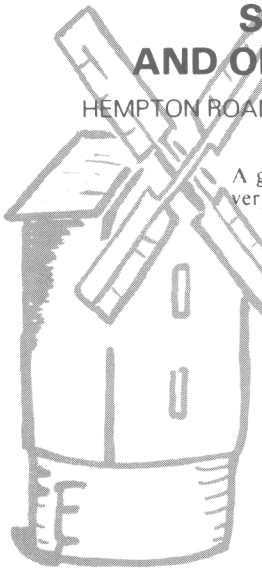

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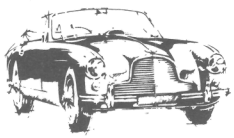


TEL.: DEDDINGTON 38324

By now you will have seen the posters around the village for our GRAND AUCTION to be held on Saturday 9th May in and under the Town Hall. (See the ad. in this issue.) I hope that you all have an entry form by now as well. The time will be 11.30a.m. of course, not p.m. - there are limits to our madness! This is our big pre-Carnival fund-raiser and we need the money folks! What better way to get rid of household clutter that always accumulates, raise a bob or two and help an excellent cause at the same time? Extra forms are available in the Post Office and pubs in case you've been missed out - or in case you have a mad turn out in the loft! It should be a good laugh, with Terry Mialls from Duns Tew acting as Auctioneer.

Actually our funds have been given an excellent boost by a £100 donation from Johnson & Co in Deddington - our very grateful thanks to Derek Johnson - and by the £33 raised from Jill Cheeseman and Terry Blackburn's coffee morning.

The raffle books are about to be distributed, so beware, we shall be after you. The prizes are pretty good, you must admit - a Sharp Combination Black/White T.V., Radio and Cassette Recorder, a Crest Hotel Overnighter for Two, a Free Glider Flight (donated by Deddington Motor Services), and many others including Food, Drink and Vouchers.

Sponsors are coming in well for our printed programme, and in case you've been a bit confused as to where all this lovely money we're sure to make is actually going, it will stay in Deddington for local projects. Exactly what projects will be decided after all the fun and games are over and we see what's in the kitty.

Most of the day's events are OK and organised: the Gymkhana schedule is now ready - please contact Jill Boyd (18 The Paddocks) or Celia Day (2 Manor Farm Cottages, Hempton Road Tel: 38178) for a copy. Terry Blackburn is organising invitations to the party for all children up to the age of 11 through the Primary School and Playgroup. Children at schools outside the village can pick up an invitation from Mr. Garrett at the Post Office. Parents please note - the invitation is necessary for the children to pick up their party food packs. 300 children in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton is one thing, 300 day trippers is another! Oxford Sea Cadets will be joining us for the day both to give a marching display and to provide communications links between the Market Place, Castle Grounds and Car Parks.

We still have one or two problems where we need help. Does anyone know of a marching band to head up the procession? Secondly we need car parking space for visitors, particularly to the Gymkhana and Football competition on the Castle Grounds. Earls Lane, Castle Street and Hopcrafts Lane will be taking through traffic as the Market Place will be cut off, so we must keep these free. Special parking is being organised for local residents who normally park in these streets and the Market Place. Details will be given nearer the time and we hope you will be willing to co-operate to make things run as smoothly as possible.

Please support the W.I. stall next month since they have kindly offered 25% of the profits to the Carnival.

Mary Robinson

NOTES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 22ND APRIL

Present: D. Welford (Chairman), B. Fuller, R. Gardner, K. Garrett, R. Garvey, R. Hayward, M. O'Neil, Mrs. M. Robinson, M. Spencer, R. Stevens, D. Ward, J. Webber. A. Gardner (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Mrs. J. Cheeseman and A. MacKenzie. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and under matters arising, it was reported that three unsafe trees on the Castle Grounds had been felled. The clerk said that the DHSS had promised to consider the Council's representations about Health Service re-organisation.

After a vote it was decided to award the grass cutting contract for the coming season to Rob's Gardening Services, the other contender being unable to satisfy the Council's insurance conditions. Roger Gardner (who had been appointed at the last meeting to inspect CDC's deeds of the Mortuary) reported that he had been in touch with CDC that day and hoped to inspect the deeds the following week. On the same subject Monty Spencer suggested that the Council's insurance record should be inspected in order to try and establish the pre-war ownership of the building. Council agreed that he should do this.

The Chairman told the Council that this year's rate precept had been calculated by increasing last year's figure by 10% and adding the Windmill rent and an equivalent sum for the essential work there. He pointed out that if this resulted in a surplus then this could be carried forward against next year's expenditure.

The Council received the first report of the Windmill Centre Steering Committee. The Committee's chairman, Richard Broadbent, told the councillors that there were 14 members of the committee and that the other officers were Jill Cheeseman, Secretary, Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie, Treasurer and Robin Stammers, Fund Raising. He estimated £1,000 needed to be spent immediately upon repairing vandalism and providing necessary basic amenities. Maintenance costs over the next six months would be approximately £760. His committee have embarked upon a programme of detailed planning and would report in due course to the Council upon such matters as the provision of heating. Donald Welford welcomed the encouraging progress already made by the committee and the council agreed to make £2,000 available over the next six months for improvements and maintenance costs.

Councillors learned that up to date tenders for re-painting the Town Hall were still awaited. Widening the roadway at Goose Green was discussed. Public funds are unlikely to be available but it might be possible to do the work on a 'self help' basis.

A request from the Rev. and Mrs. Maurice Nicholls to hold an evening of games and entertainment for young people on Castle Grounds on 16th May was approved.

Douglas Ward was appointed to study OCC's latest Passenger Transport Plan. Comments upon this have to be with OCC by 12th June. The clerk told the Council that two allotments are available. One planning application was considered and the meeting closed after cheques totalling over £330 had been signed.

Roger Rose

DEDDINGTON SINGERS

We shall be holding a Musical Evening for friends and anyone interested in coming along to the Holly Tree Club on the 14th May at 8p.m. There will be refreshments and a Bring & Buy stall.

Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Betty Caporn on Deddington 38402.

Betty Caporn

DEDDINGTON TOWN F.C.

Our season is almost at an end and although our league position is not as good as we had hoped, we have reached the final of the Banbury Guardian Cup. Our opponents in the final will be Grimsbury Utd. This will be played on May 6th at Broxton Ironstone Ground, kick-off 6.30p.m. A coach will be leaving from the British Legion Club on that day at 5.30p.m. We would really like your support and voices at this final to try and bring back this cup to Deddington.

400 Club - This will be starting on May 9th and our thanks to all our new members. A collector will be calling on you shortly. Winning numbers and names will be in the Deddington News each month.

Dance - Our Presentation Night Dance has been arranged for June 19th (Friday) at the British Legion Club. 8p.m. - 12.00 midnight. Dancing to Vision, one of Oxford's leading groups. Tickets will be on sale shortly at £2.50 each to include buffet and will be available from DTFC, Members, British Legion Club or Haywards. More details next month.

Rodney Hayward

DEDDINGTON PLAYGROUP

We will be having a stall in the Market Place on Saturday 2nd May to sell cakes and produce etc, and will be very pleased to receive any items to sell on that date. I hope that Mums will be able to give us their help as well.

I can now report that our Knit-In raised just over £100, and thank again all those who gave us their help.

We are on the lookout for a small shed to use at the Playgroup for storing some of the more outdoor equipment, tricycles etc., and would be interested in hearing from anyone who has one they wish to sell or be rid of.

The Playgroup is now operating a weekly Draw in conjunction with the Oxford Sports Club. Participants can pay anything from 5p upwards to take part and there is no obligation to buy tickets regularly unless you wish to do so. Every week there is the opportunity to win any amount up to £1000. Anyone interested in knowing more should speak to Mrs. Powell at the Playgroup, or ring Mrs. Oddy (Tel: 38669) or contact any other committee member.

Sheila Kedge, Secretary

WANTED: Separate spin dryer. Appearance immaterial as long as it works. Please ring Mary Tearney (38223)

WOMEN CARING TRUST (Reg. Charity no. 264843)

A most successful 'Bring-and-Buy' morning was held in Deddington on April 1st in support of this trust, which exists to help the children of Northern Ireland. Mrs. Betty Stapleton and Mrs. Joan Robins would like to thank all those who helped at the stalls and the many people who came bringing gifts. £170 was made and will be spent on sending six young people chosen from the two communities on a 'work-camp' holiday at one of the country schools in the province.

Anyone who might be interested to help in the work of the trust in North Oxfordshire is invited to contact Mrs. Stapleton (Banbury 720410) or Mrs. Robins (Dedd. 38210).

Joan Robins

THE WARRINER SCHOOL

At the PTA meeting on April 2nd, I was able to raise the question of insufficient homework which a number of parents have mentioned. Let me first explain that the problem as I understand it, is that parents are unaware of the homework set and would like to be involved by being able to act as monitors to ensure that the work is done properly as well as their having an interest in the work set. These were the views I expressed in committee and whilst some members felt that homework was a matter between pupil and teacher (not my view, I hasten to add), nevertheless Mr. Ruddock agreed to discuss the subject with Heads of Department. My personal view on 'Revision' as a subject for homework is that the work to be revised should be specified and this should be followed by a Test in class. This is certainly the view of the parent who raised the subject at the 'Any Questions' evening. Unfortunately as can so easily happen, the point was misconstrued.

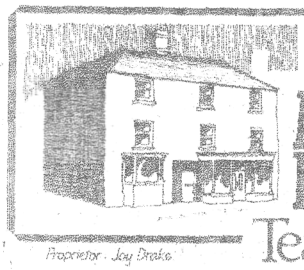
Sponsored Run Once again the annual 'run' (sponsorship being optional) raised over £2,000 and it seems that the school will be having a garage for its Minibus plus books for the library - well done all those responsible for this great effort.

I do not wish to rake over old ground again by discussing the 'options' problem but since raiding the subject, several parents have telephoned to say that their son/daughter had been included in a C.S.E. group because the 'O' Level group was full. In one case selection was by names out of a hat! If this is the case then the system is really a 'numbers game' involving a lot of administration resulting in grouping which is not necessarily in the children's best interests.

This seems to me to be a good question for Mr. Brighouse, Chief Education Officer on May 12th. I might add that my own understanding is that no decision as to 'O' or C.S.E. is finally made until the Autumn Term before.

Sports Evening Cheese & Wine on April 9th - over forty people attended what was voted a successful event where prizes for the Squash Tournament were presented.

John Burdon



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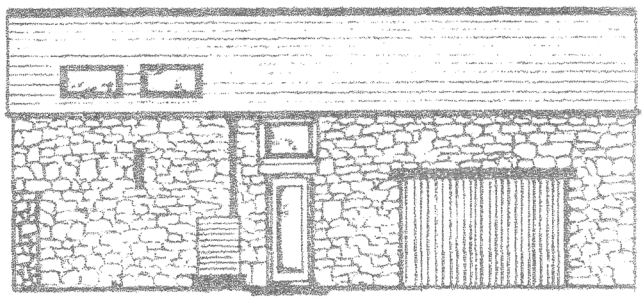


KNOW YOUR BIBLE

In the first of this series of 'Know your Bible', I made mention of the fullness of life compared with a mere existence. Whilst we are not able still to adequately define physical life, we do nevertheless attach a kind of sanctity to that which is living.

Within that obscure Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, we find man without God assuming no difference between a dead man and a dead lion. A living dog is seen there to be better than either.

Christianity teaches respect for all life and particularly for man who was made in the image of God. Most of us have a natural built in incentive to preserve our physical lives and to extend them for as long as possible.

In John 1:4, it is said of Jesus that in him was life and light. The words of Jesus in John 14:6 state, among other things, that He is the life and even more important that He is the way to the life. In the light of John 10:10, there must be a dimension over and above simply eating and drinking when Jesus says, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." The Prayer Book speaks of Him 'Whose service is perfect freedom'.

How do the vast majority of people see Christianity, (they usually call it religion)? Is it to be seen in a Victorian straight-jacket as a strict code of negative prohibition, in which everything that classes as enjoyment is taboo?

To refute this misconception let us remember that in John 2 Jesus went to the wedding in Cana and in the moment of shortage, turned the water into wine (and some of the very best at all!) Again I ask would Jesus have told the parable of the Prodigal Son had he not have commended the music and rejoicing when the sone came home to his father's house?

The father held a great feast for the occasion. Surely it was the elder brother (representing the religious formalist, pharasaic and lacking in love even towards his next-of-kin) that shows up in such a bad light. In the father's house there was plenty, there was joy, there was warmth, there was fellowship - a picture of true Christianity.

Without a shadow of doubt true Christianity has that which is positive to give to life. It enhances life, it improves even a good marriage, it makes for unity among the family. The Apostle tells us to think about (on) all that which is of good report, no doubt because it is conducive to good helath, well being, and good for society in general.

In reality, we are all of us wrongdoers or sinners at some point or other and therefore need to come to the Father as did the Prodigal with the words "I have sinned against heaven and against Thee."

But then the goodness of the Gospel message has to be sampled to be truly believed. As we confess our shortcomings, God, who is the true Father in the house of plenty, bids us enter in and enjoy life while regretably, the elder brother chooses, in his grudging attidude and obstinacy, to simply stay out in the cold and remain miserable.

Let us enter in and enjoy all that God wants to bestow upon us; only a religious Pharasee, or a fool, would want to do otherwise.

Albert Fox

CRICKET

Response to my invitation for support for a Cricket Club in Deddington has been encouraging although not overwhelming. I would ask all those people who have expressed interest and have offered help and anyone else who may be interested to meet at the Unicorn Hotel on Monday evening the 18th May at 7.30p.m.

John Burdon

GUIDES

We attended church for the Mothering Sunday service in Deddington and were very pleased with the smart turn-out and were particularly proud of our 2 colour parties especially the bearers Sally Jones and Debbie Webb. The flowers this year were lovely and 5 Guides helped Mrs. Hannah to make up the posies. Well done and thank you Ruth Drake, Ruth Broadbent, Sarah-Jane Mermode, Clare Cheeseman and Hazel Rampley. Also a big thank you to the Evans sisters who could not arrive to help until later and found the work done when they did arrive. The thought was definitely there!

The Senior Guides attended the Adventure camp at Heythrop run by Venture Scouts & Rangers. All thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had a go at canoeing, abseiling, pioneering, shooting, orienteering etc. etc.

Mrs. Sue Baxter gave a super talk and demonstration on make-up. I think all the guides went home covered in disco glitter. The speaker, a very experienced teacher, had lots of sensible basic rules to remember about choosing, buying and applying make-up and was able to advise girls personally on what colours etc. could suit them best when they came to buy make-up (in a few years time in some cases). Mums who may have been anxious about our choice of speaker will be glad to know that Mrs. Baxter was very much in favour of washing and very much against family bathrooms being littered with plastic containers and grubby lumps of cotton wool!

The end of term saw us helping our younger guides to prepare for Beginners Camp. They are off the first weekend in May.

We were very disappointed that the St. George's Day parade was called off due to snow! But thank you to our colour parties who did spend all Friday evening rehearsing and a little bird told us that they performed their duties admirably. So thanks again girls, Karen Smith, Susannah Woodd, Debbie Webb, Debbie Hollis, Sarah Evans and Ruth Drake. We'll make sure you get another chance.

Maggie Rampley

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

There are at present 3 allotments available. These are half a chain in length and the rent is £2.50 per annum.

Anyone interested in taking one of these should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council as soon as possible at the address below.

Mr. Alan Gardner, 23 The Daedings, Deddington Tel: 38138

MOTHERS UNION

On April 2nd we met at the Police House to meet Miss Margaret Oliver from Enstone who gave a talk on 'Our use of the Bible'. We managed to find seats for everyone whilst the children and one husband played happily if not quietly in the next room!

As we do not have a meeting until later in May, may I again remind members of the Young Families Service to be held at Wokingham 3p.m. Saturday 9th May. Quite a distance but if anyone is interested in going could they contact me please.

We are meeting at Maunds Guest House on 10.30a.m. on Thursday 21st May. Three people will talk about a favourite hymn, prayer or reading, followed by discussion. Children will be welcome. Do join us.

Look out for posters and more details regarding the family day out at Stowe on July 18th. Open to all.

Maggie Rampley

LEDDINGTON RANGER GUIDES

Five of us enjoyed the Adventure Camp at Heythrop and we invested Sarah Kent. The camp is becoming popular and this year we had 125 people compared to about 70 last year. I hope the Guides and Scouts enjoyed the programme - canoeing, absailing, pioneering, dealing with a First Aid Incident, night hiking and rifle shooting.

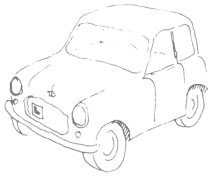
At the same time Ruth Wood, Helen Drake and Judith Humphries were at Beamwood - gaining their Lightweight certificates. Ruth and Lynn Wood have been doing a First Aid course and now have their first service certificates.

On 23rd April Sarah Kent, Sara Taylor, Francesca Howell, Lynn Wood and Heather Keefe set off for Base I Camp at Jubilee House; their first real taste of lightweight camping. They survived the heavy rain and hail of the first night and even managed to cook themselves lunch on an open fire (even if they did have to have pudding first.) By the time Ruth, Liz and I paid a visit on Saturday night they were well into the swing of it all. Then the snow came down - collapsing some of the tents. I can't blame the girls, I would have done the same, they retired into the house for the night. Some brave souls did sleep out in it all night. Obviously made of hardier stuff than us. Five very tired Rangers were collected on Sunday. Just as well St. George's Day Parade was cancelled.

On 1-3 May two Rangers will be helping at the beginner Guide camp. On 5th May we are running a Pop Quiz for the Guides in our District as well as our Scouts. 7p.m. at the Wesleyan Hall.

Three Rangers are boating and camping at Marlow 8-10 May and on 5th June, we are holding a Coffee Evening and plant sale at Steeple Aston.

Jackie Stammers



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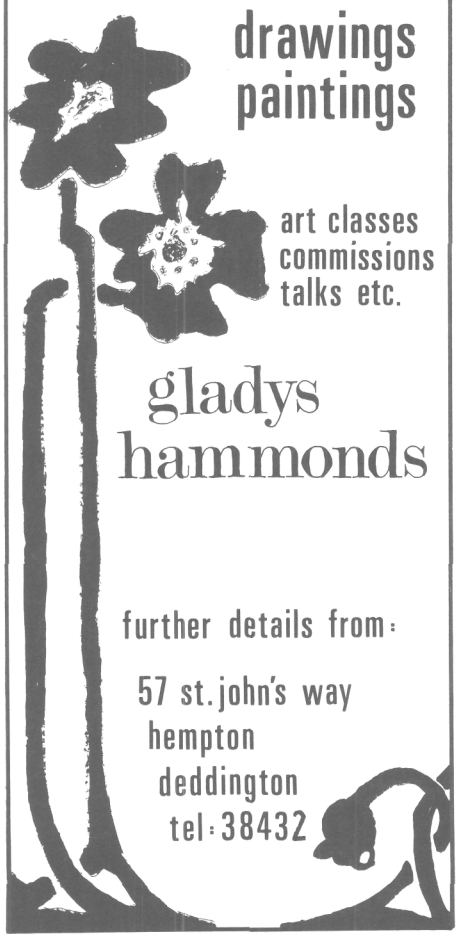

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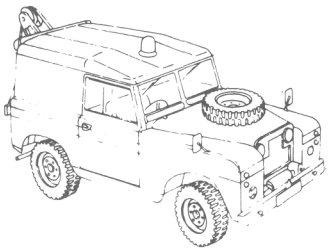

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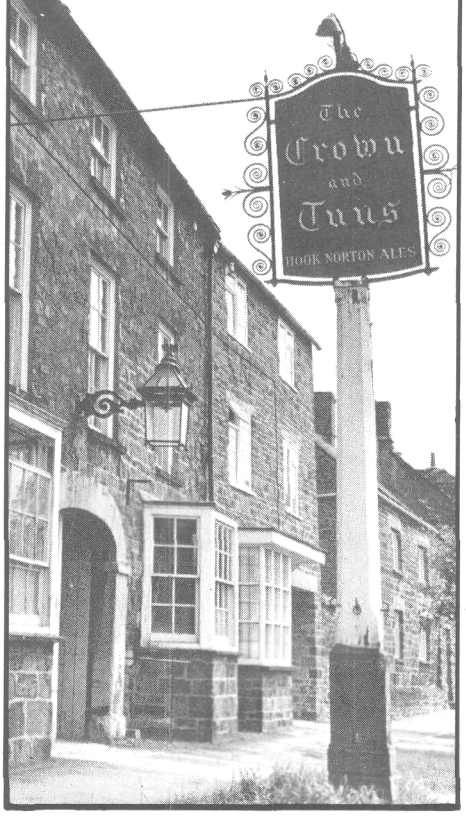

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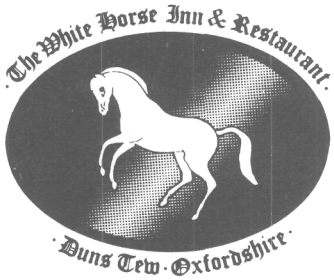

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